SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3828 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE AĈT 2001-12008

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	2. For Pullach: Since this is an official Austrian government report, we do not see how we can authorize its passing to UPSWING, but we will suggest to CRENCULF 1 that he pass it to UPSWING himself.									
3. There are no developments in the case of SANITZER, who has not been further prosecuted by the Austrian government.										
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Your query of 28 November 1955 concerning Johann SANITZER

In the interrogation of SANTTZER on the basis of your list of his former collaborators, he made the following statements:

"On 2 Februar, 1949, on the pretext of an interrogation, I was taken by a guard, in chains and in a prisoner's uniform, to the Russian headquarters in Stein where I was taken over by a Russian captain who spoke German and, after my particulars were taken down, I was placed in an automobile. We drove via St. Poelten to the NKVD prison in Baden. Under the circumstances, I was treated rather well there, received better food (officers' rations) and my hair was not cut off. I concluded that all this was due to the fact that they thought they would have to turn me back. When I arrived in cell 26 in Baden I found already there an Austrian who claimed himself NEUHUBER. He claimed to have lived in Linz and to have been arrested for espionage for CIC. About 10 days later the interrogations began, which ran along quite normally. During my detention by the Russians I was never struck. Several days after the beginning of the interrogation period I found a new prisoner who claimed himself first NORMANN and later STURM, when I got back from a night interrogation. He claimed that he had already been sentenced and had been in Neunkirchen, but that the Russians had discovered that he was named STURM and had, therefore, started another case against him. At our first meeting, STURM acted as though we were old acquaintences and claimed that as an agent of the Abwehr office at one time he had often talked with me, which was, however, not true. Since he tried to pump me in a very clumsy way, and especially wanted to know details from me on one espionage case which interested the Russians greatly, it was clear to me from the first day that STURM was a stool-pigeon.

"In the course of my stay in Baden, I furthermore determined that the real man who was supposed to "stool" on me was NEUHUBER, and STURM only played the role of the clumsy stool-pigeon to divert suspicion from NEUHUBER. In Baden I was mainly interrogated on my radio double agent cases. For about a month I was interrogated daily from 3 p.m. until midnight. On the 26th of April 1949 I was taken by airplane from Voeslau airport to Moscow. With me was the Russian emigrant AWERKIEV, director of the DDSC in Vienna, the Vienkess WRSCHIL on MRSCHIKOTI, and very likely the leading bishop of Hungary, Cardinal MINDSZENTHY. We were escorted by the chief of NKVD for Austria and Hungary, Lieut. General REJELKIN. From Moscow airport we were taken directly into the Lubjanka prison where I shared a cell with AWERKIEV. Several days after my arrival in Moscow I was interrogated for the first time by the MVD Ministry. It concerned itself with conditions under which I would work with the Russians in the intelligence field. I refused, whereupon discussion of this question was postponed until the next interrogation. This interrogation took place several days later and was again without result because I continued to refuse, whereupon I was taken to the Lefortowa prison on the first Saturday after the first of May at night. There I was interrogated by the investigating magistrate, Captain PEROW, and 1st Lieut SEROW or SERNOW, with the help of an air force lieutenant with a Danish name, on my radio double agent cases, using the Russian files. The interrogations lasted until the end of May. The interrogation took place during the day. Then there was a one-month pause, and at the beginning of June they began with the interrogations on an espionage case which concerned the German positive intelligence service

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and a group of senior Soviet officers. I had already been concerned on the periphery of this case. Above all, the Russians wanted clues, if possible, on names of members of this group, and when I didn't talk the way they wanted me to, they put me in solitary confinement in the women's section of the Lefortowa prison, and for about 21 months continued night interrogations of me and tried to soften me up by using female guards especially posted for this purpose to keep me from sleeping in daytime. I could practically sleep each week only on Saturday and Sunday on which days no interrogation took place. The themes of these interrogations were: naming my own agents, the staffs of my radio schools, my counter-espionage experience against the Western intelligence services, the so-called 'Nibelungen 3 and 4' cases, and the setting-up of an intelligence net in case Slovakia were occupied by the enemy. I had been the special emmissary of the RSHA for the setting -up and controlling of this intelligence net.

"Around the middle of September 1949 these interrogations were finished. and I was put again into a two-man cell where I was together with (Prince) KONOJE, the son of the former Japanese prime minister. In the middle of October 1949 I was put in the central prison of 'Budyrka' and by administrative processes (OSSOW) sentenced to 25 years in prison under paragraph 58.6, sub-paragraph 2 of the Soviet Criminal Code (espionage against Russia as a foreigner in a leading position, not therefore for work crimes).

"On the 11th of November 1949 I was put in the political concentration camp of Vladimir. In the middle of 1950 I was put into the prison hospital of the political concentration camp for 5 months for complete dystrophy and Skorbut (?) as a result of the night interrogations from which the insufficient nourishment prevented my recovery. In September 1950 I was again put into the prison building. I would like to note that I was interrogated up until Christmas 1953 intermittently by investigating magistrates from Moscow or by political officers on Moscow orders, frequently in 1950 and 1952, more rarely in 1953, and for the last time at Christmas in 1953. The themes of the interrogations were experiences with Western intelligence services and the previously-mentioned Russian officers' group. They continually tried to put me under pressure by insisting that my wife and daughter had also been arrested. This was told me officially by the chief of the investigating section (second section of the MVD) who was supposedly named RUDLOW and was a colonel.

> "At the beginning of December 1950 I was placed in isolation at Vladimir for 4 days and questioned by two Russian positive espionage intelligence officers in civilian clothes. The theme of this interrogation was information on persons whom the Russians thought were known to me. On 26 May 1951 I was taken in the prison car from Vladimir to the Lubjanka prison in Moscow. There I was kept for 7 weeks under the most unfavorable conditions in a so-called 'Sitzbox' (sitting box). In the middle of July 1951 I was put in cell #36 on the third floor (im zweiten Stock), received special food with cigarettes and could purchase things up to 20 Rubel. At first I didn't know what to make of this, but it became clear to me when on the second day of my stay in this cell I was taken to the special entrance on the second floor (im ersten Stock) into the Ministry and there interrogated by a man (a Jew) who spoke excellent German with a north-German accent. He asked me

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first about Soviet agents who had been used by the NKVD in Austria during the war and arrested by me. From his exact knowledge of various details I could assume that he was the Austrian expert of the NKVD Ministry. In veiled form he made me the proposal either to take over the Austrian desk in the Austrian section in the new Abwehr being built in Berlin or to work in that section. From his statements I was able to conclude that my former chief in Berlin, Colonel KOPKOW, who, during the war had worked a double agent radio case with the son of the present president of the DDR Pieck and thereby had connections to Pieck's circles, was concerned in a leading way with the setting up of the DDR Abwehr and had requested me to work together with the Russians. The man interrogating me was possibly name** KOPLANSKY or KAPPELANSKY. By asking my fellow prisoners in Vladimir and giving a description of this man I determined his name. In this case as in all similar negotiations, I declined at once, in order to avoid a situation from which I could not turn back.

"I was not being interrogated any more, and on 1 August 1951 my special rations were stopped. I remained, however, in the Lubjanka, and on 7 October 1951 I again received special rations, which made me suspect they would repeat their attempt to bring me into the Soviet intelligence service. On 7 November 1955, (national holiday) I attempted suicide with hydrochloric acid which I had saved up unnoticed from the daily ration of acid I got for stomach trouble. At the time I took the dose for 5 days without the desired success, but for 2 years I suffered greatly from its effects. Only on 24 December 1951 did I learn the purpose of the second part of my stay in the Lubjanka; specifically, I was confronted on this day, after an interrogation, with the Vienna attorney, (Dr) Napoleon BIHARRY. During the war BIHARRY had been a confusion agent (?) (Spannungsagent) of the NKVD and had been arrested by me during 1943 for collaboration with the KOEHLER-BORETZKY group. He was liberated by the Americans in Dachau in 1945 and returned to Vienna. From my interrogation and from the subsequent confrontation I concluded that the NKVD accused BIHARRY of working after the war for the Russians and Americans at the same time. The Russians wanted to force from me the admission that I had turned BIHARRY over to the American intelligence service during my stay in the American internment camp (Camp W. Orr) in Glasenbach. A second theme of this confrontation was as follows: In one of my radio double cases (Quartiermacher 1) the Russians gave the agent the mission of approaching BIHARRY and getting him to meet a representative of the NKVD at the Russian Consulate General in Istanbul. This mission was given about 3 weeks after BIRARRY had been arrested in another espionage case. At the time I intended to release BIHARRY to send him to Istanbul, but Berlin was against it and, therefore, the whole thing fell through. BIHARRY had already agreed to it. As a reward I had promised him the release of his wife who had been arrested at that time for a misdemeanor (grave insult to the Fuehrer). The Russians now insisted that a man who claimed he was BIHARRY had actually gone to the Soviet Consulate General in Istanbul which, under the circumstances, was impossible. They reconstructed the matter as though BIHARRY had actually entered my service and had traveled to Istanbul for me. I did not make the statements the Russians wanted, since that in no way corresponded with the facts.

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"On 17 or 18 January 1952 I was returned to Vladimir.

"In November 1952 the political officer in Vladimir Lt. Col ROSANZEW, approached me and wanted to know if I were inclined to work under cover for the Russians in Vienna. I did not enter into any close negotiations and refused at once, but I presumed from certain statements from ROSANZEW that as a reprisal the Russians would transport me farther towards Siberia. At the time I immediately informed the single trustworthy person in my cell, cavalry general FrikHANSEN, former chief of the army mission in Rumania, who had a better chance to return home than I did, and asked him in case he was returned to Germany to inform the authorities and my relatives in Austria about the grounds (for my detention).

"The next recruitment attempt by the Russians was made in July 1953. At the time the political officer, a captain, the successor of ROSANZEW, who had to leave after Stalin's death, made me the proposition of entering the NKVD Ministry with officer's rank. I rejected it and informed the Swiss journalist, Victor de LATRY, and the German diplomat, Reudiger Grar ADELMANN von Adelmannsfelden, of the conversation. As a result of my refusal, I was exposed to reprisals from the political department. I always got double the amount of punishment that the others did, and the Russians sought through one of their stool-pigeons, an Austrian hamed SCHOEGGL, to induce me to form a prisoner clique, which was punishable by death. Specifically, SCHOEGGL tried through letters which he threw to me from another prison yard during the walk period to induce me to take over 'the leadership of Austrians in Vladimir in case of war', and offered to help me in the organizing of this group. I naturally saw through this provocation at once.

"At the beginning of January this year (1955) \I lodged a protest with a political official about the activities of the political department against me. This legal official came to our cell at the time to urge the 'OSSOW' convicts to appeal their sentences. In the presence of my cell mates, among them several Austrians (Criminal policeman Fritz EMEYKAL, Ernst RAHBARER, uniformed police official, etc.) I made the following statement: 'I will not appeal because I was taken illegally out of Austria and illegally held in Russia. I cannot regard myself as a criminal at all, since for example, I was to be released in Moscow in 1951 if I had agreed to work with the Soviet Union. The legal official must know that from my file. My only crime consisted of not having been a prostitute and sold myself to the Russians. Since my last refusal I had been persecuted by the political officer and, as the entire cell knew, in December 1954, when I should have been put in the hospital because of my mortally dangerous high blood pressure, I had been refused, because of the interference of the political officer, hospital treatment, and during two ten-day stretches in solitary confinement I had been refused medicine which I urgently needed because of my condition. The legal official simply stared into space for several minutes and then replied that he would check the complaint, which, however, never occurred. On the 4th of March 1955 I was suddenly transfered from the general cell into the most remote cell of the prison, so that I was almost completely isolated. The purpose of this isolation was to prevent my learning anything about the recruitment of Austrians whose repatriation

was then being prepared. This only became clear to me, of course, much later. At the same time I was supposed to be sounded out by one of my fellow prisoners about my inclination to work for the Russians after my repatriation. I do not want to make any statement about this case until I have cleared up several details, since I do not want to do anyone an injustice.

"I would like to state that the Russians never mentioned specific details about my cooperation with them. Only in 1951 was there talk that I should take over the leadership of the Austrian desk in Berlin or some section there. I could never get any concrete details because I refused all negotiations at the outset. As I have already stated, I was afraid that I would get involved in something from which I could not extricate myself.

"I was never struck during the interrogations although I knew from fellow prisoners that physical force was often used. I attribute this to the fact that they did not want to sour me in view of their repeated attempts to get me to cooperate with them. Actually, after my rejection of their last official offer in July 1953, I was exposed to various reprisals by the political department and on one occasion (Christmas 1953) threatened with a beating during an interrogation when I refused to give the name of one of my subordinates. After the death of Stalin, however, the regime had loosened up so much that from then on, because of this incident, I could get away with refusing all statements and after that time not let myself be interrogated.

"Anton BROEDL was with me in the field of 'Counter-measures,' that is, counter-espionage. I consider it out of the question that he is in any kind of contact with the Russians. He is mentally not quite normal and, for example, on one occasion tried to shoot me and then commit suicide, although the grounds for all this were completely trivial.

"Josef WIMMER was also an official in the field of 'Countermeasures.' In my opinion, it is out of the question to think of him as having contact with a foreign intelligence service.

"Johann AECHER was for a long period working with the Jewish Department and around the middle of 1944 was transferred to my Investigative Troop. Moreover, I believe he escaped from the Glasenbach Camp in Spring 1947 and is still unaccounted for.

"Hans OFENBECK was my chauffeur and was not even informed of internal matters.

"Wilhelm WEISS was in my Interrogation Troop and is the typical official from the Schober era. He would be out of the question for wo with a foreign intelligence service.

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"The same would apply to the official Johann HEINDL, who was under me in charge of working on weapons and ammunition smuggling, as well as on forgery. ;

"Johann Guttner was killed in an auto accident in 1945.

"Josef ENUNNHOELZEL is married to the daughter of an innkeeper and always showed wore interest in the inn of his parents-in-law than in the service. He was with my (Verhandlungstrupp).

"Karl MRAS, a Reichsdeutscher from Pomerania, who returned to his homeland in 1945, was my chief radio man and also worked in the Cipher Section.

'Karl KRONES was transferred from the uniformed police to my department and functioned as supervising radio man, just like Policeman Stockinger, in re-doubling the radio agents we had.

(Ing) Karl Langer was from about the middle of 1944 the chief of a Cipher Bureau. He was not a Gestapo official, but was put on detached service with the Gestapo.

('Captain) Hannes BAUER was the chief of the Radio Intercept Company of the Okw, Direction-Finding Station, Athens.

"Heinrich BERGER. The name means nothing to me. Wait, there was for a time an Oberregierungs Rat Heinrich BERGER as deputy chief of Abt. 4 of the Stapoleitstelle Vienna. He was at the end the chief of the Stapoleitstelle in Klagenfurt and in 1947 or 1948 was sentenced by a Peoples Court in Graz. Y

"Hans POTZINGER was the chief of my Investigative Troop and was shot by a French agent on 5 May 1944.

"Hans SMIREK was a criminal policeman and was used by me for special tasks, especially for difficult investigations in my radio double agent cases. He had once been a paratrooper and returned from North Africa from captivity with Montgomery's car and a captured English General.

"Werner UNBEHAUEN was captured by the Russians as a Divisional radioman at Stalingrad. Was recruited first by von PAULUS for the National Committee Free Germany and later for the Russian IS. He worked for front line intelligence on the Third Ukranian front and after four successful missions as an agent behind the lines was promoted to Major by the Russians. On his fifth mission he fell into my hands. I turned him around and used him in the radio double agent case 'Theiss.' He was later used by me for the Operation Nibelungen 3 and 4 (setting up an agent net in Austria and in Slovakia). I released him on 7 May 1945. At the time he had an agent radio, because we felt at that time that we might not be able to retreat to the west and in this case planned to withdraw into the Waldviertel and use



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UNBEHAUEN as an FI agent to keep us informed on the situation. It did not come to this, however, because we did withdraw to the West. He was from Thuringia and surely returned there. He also was supposed, on orders of Kaltenbrunner, to sneak into Vienna in the latter half of April in a Russian major's uniform with an agent radio, but the situation was then so confused that we did not get around to this operation. He was what I would call a Master Spy, at home in all situations. He would certainly again to active in an intelligence service, apparently for the west, because the Russians, during my interrogations in Moscow, were always trying to get me to tell where he was, Maybe I could find out something about his whereabouts now. He was released by me on 7 May 1945 in Krems.

"Florian SWOBODA was a Lieutenant in the German Wehrmacht and like (First Lt.) Franz GINSTL, was taken prisoner at Stalingrad. They too were recruited by von PAULUS and dropped into Wiener Neustadt in February 1945 by the NKVD with parachutes and radios. Using them, I conducted the 'Stalingrad' radio double agent case. They were released by me shortly before the fall of Vienna, reported to the Russians, and were sentenced to ten years in camps. Both were, as far as I know, repatriated to Austria in the first group of Austrians in June of this year (1955). SWOBODA was from Vienna and GINSTL was from Upper Austria. I want to correct myself and state that GINSTL was possibly not among the repatriates, because Austrians with whom I was together at Vorkuta during the Korea War told me that he had been recruited for a mission in Korea and that he had left there.

"I can, however, vaguely remember that I read his name in a repatriation list, which, however, does not exclude that he was also in Korea. I could report more later because I can get more information in.

"Karl RINGNAGL, son of a master barber from Wien 3, was captured as a flier as early as 1942 by the Russians, trained as an NKVD radio operator and in February 1945, dropped by parachute near Plank in the Waldviertel with an Austrian whose name I cannot remember. At his capture, he shot and killed three local militiamen who were looking for him. His accomplice was shot by the border guards while trying to cross the March River into Slovakia near Stillfried. After his release, RINGNAGL also turned himself in to the Russians and was sentenced to ten years in a camp, because I had conducted the double agent radio operation Red Murderer with him. RINGNAGL was also recently released, but from his fellow prisoners I have heard that he originally refused to be repatriated. An Austrian from the last group told me that he was from Loosdorf and lives there now.

"Hildegard RIESS was a so-called Schutzbundkind (child of a Socialist family evacuated from Austria to USSR in 1934 when SPOe went underground). She was the daughter of a Schutzbund man who was under arrest in Austria and in 1934 was taken to Moscow to be 'educated,' raised there in the Schutzbundheim, recruited by the NKVD, and at the end of 1944, together with the Czech citizen Michel KOS, dropped into Slovakia as a parachute and radio

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agent. I arrested both of them, but could not run a double agent case, because as a result of conditions in the partisan area, I first arrested RIESS and two weeks later KOS, so I had to reckon that the arrest of RIESS had been passed on to Moscow through KOS and the partisans. I now tried to win over RIESS before her threatened execution by recruiting her for Operation Nibelungen 3 and 4, but her use in this was not possible because it developed that she was pregnant by KOS. She was released in the first half of April 1945 and, at the time of my trial in 1949, she lived in Vienpa.

"I cannot recall any man named KUMMER.

"Gregor KERSCHE was once the agricultural expert of the illegal KPOe. He emigrated in the mid-thirties to Russia and worked his way up there to People's Kommissar for Light Industry in the Ukraine. In the fall of 1943, he, with the radio operators Alois SOUCEK and Hildegard MRAZ, both of whom had emigrated from Vienna to Moscow, was dropped over the German Reich on behalt O'DIMITROFF, General Secretary of the supposedly dissolved Comintern, to work their way down into Austria and organize the entire underground under Communist leadership, so that in case of an unfortunate outcome of the war (?), the communists would have here at their disposal a powerful organization. I arrested this troop on 2 January 1944 (1943?) and used them in the radio double agent case 'Lindwurm,' through which until mid-1944 I was in radio contact with DIMITROFF and then until the end of the war with KOPLENIG, who was then in Moscow. "This group was also later signed up for Operation Nieblungen 3 and 4 and after their release turned themselves in to the Russians and were sentenced to ten years in a camp. KERSCHE was last, as I heard from fellow prisoners in Russia, in Karaganda.

"Josef ZETTLER, who came from Bavaria and emigrated to Russia, was dropped by parachute together with Albert HUTTARY from Brunn am Gebirge in Fall 1943 near the airfield Munchendorf - Gross Wien, to collect military intelligence for the NKVD. With them I conducted a radio double agent case, which was, however, betrayed. They were both released at the end of the war, and at the time of my trial, HUTTARY was in Vienna, in fact, he even testified at my trial. This group was brought from Russia to England via Murmansk, where they had to wait almost a half year for suitable flying weather before being dropped in on us. During my interrogations in Moscow, the Russians tried to get information tending to show that HUTTARY, during his stay in England, had also been recruited by the Secret Service. I did not admit anything about this. I did indeed have evidence of it, but no proof. A brother of HUTTARY, who was arrested for having helped his brother, in other words aiding the enemy, was, through my intervention, based on a request from the Hitler Youth in which he had distinguished himself in training in a pre-military training camp, sentenced by a court martial to nine months' arrest, without loss of rank (sergeant) and transfer to a Disciplinary Company on the Western Front. In the West he deserted to the English and spoke on the Austrian program of the London Radio. On him, you would conclude that he was recruited by the English intelligence service.

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"Josef BOERNER, a Saxon, jumped into East Prussia in 1942 and was arrested by me in Vienna. Using him, I ran the radio double operation 'Quartiermacher', first in Vienna, then in Innsbruck, and in Munich. He was executed in early 1945, because after I had him released, he tried to get an employee of the Stapo to flee with him to Switzerland.

"Ernst DORFECCER (called Ernst KERNMAYER after his mother's marriage) was a Schutzbundkind and was dropped in by the Russians in 1943 as an NKVD radio operator. He was from the Steirmark. Using him, I ran the radio double operation Alpenrose. After his release in April 1945 he turned himself in to the Russians.

"Emil'KAMMLER was one of the most important NKVD agents, who for example had had the job of preparing through espionage for the invasion of the Baltic States by the Russians in 1941, with a woman radio operator, the Finn Viole SANDROOS. He had himself repatriated to Germany with SANDROOS as his ostensible wife, was drafted, sent to the East Front and deserted. In the operation 'Quartiermacher 1' I caused him to be dropped in as an aid to BOERNER. He was housed in the prison building of Mauthausen and, before the final collapse, he was shot on the orders of EISGRUBER.

"I would like to add that, from the protocols shown me in Moscow, the emigrant Emilia BORETZKY from Bratislava, who emigrated in the 1930's to Russia and who in spring 1943 was dropped into the Leitha Mountains with the former organizational leader of the KPOe, Herman KOEHLER, also turned herself in to the Russians in April 1945 and was arrested by them. Also a Ukrainian couple, whose Slavic name I cannot remember (the wife had the first name Walia) and who were arrested while transmitting in Bratislava, turned themselves into the Russians when released in April 1945 and were arrested. With BORETZKY, I ran the radio double operation 'Burgenland' and with the married couple the double case 'Tiger.'

"Concerning the agents who turned themselves in to the Russians, I would like to remark: when I released agents, I naturally attached to the release the condition that they not turn themselves in to the powers which had sent them. The releases took place a month before the end of the war. when we had to evacuate Vienna. I had to fear that some agents would report in to those who had sent them, since the agents knew that a double operation had been run and that their original dispatchers thought that the operation was genuine, so that they could expect a reward. Moreover, we had to fear that since the war was not yet over, they could be given new missions against us, for which I could not take the responsibility. I, therefore, after the evacuation of Vienna, revealed all my double operations. That is to say, I resumed contact with the enemy once more and informed him, using my call sign, that the Gestapo was at work here. During my interrogations in Russia, the protocols of these people were shown me. Also some of my fellow prisoners who came from camps told me that they were together with some of these people, and that many of them, for example KOS who was arrested two weeks after he jumped, let fly with fantastic stories about sabotage activity in the Reich over a period of years and an attempted storming of the Gestapo building in

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Vienns. In all the cases of these people, it is to be assumed that they were signed up by the Russian intelligence service before the Russians repatriated them. This is certainly true in the cases of persons who were active for the Political Department in the camps even during their terms in prison, as for example, RINGWAGL, as the man from Loosdorf told me.

"Emil FUCHS was a member of the Waffen SS and became a prisoner of the British in North Africa. He actually pretended to work for the English intelligence service, and jumped in near Judenburg with the group of the English Captain KENNEDY in early 1945, turned himself in to the nearest Gendarmerie post and caused the arrest of the entire group. After checking his story, I had FUCHS released and ran a radio double operation with him in Salzburg. As is well known, KENNEDY was a security officer in the English internment camp at Wolfsberg after his release."

9 February 1956

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